

public, it will probably be possible to show, by document-
 ary evidence too (what we can now deduce only from the consistency of the Rothschild policy during a century, as shown by various indications and the information derived from certain responsible persons) that immediately before the World War the Rothschilds . . . did everything possible to avert the catastrophe", writes Count Corti. A little is known of the part taken by Alfred de Rothschild at this time, to improve the prospects of world peace. It was he who succeeded in arranging the friendly encounter between Joseph Chamberlain and the German Ambassador, which took place under his roof, to discuss various points of friction between England and Germany without the encumbrance of diplomatic formality. His efforts were nobly seconded by two other Jews—Sir Ernest Cassel, who did everything possible to smooth the way for Haldane's despairing visit to Berlin in 1912, and, on the other side, Albert Ballin, head of the Hamburg-Amerika Line and founder of the German Mercantile Marine.

The classical example, constantly repeated, of the method in which hostilities can be exploited for the private benefit of the "financier" is the Waterloo Fable, which (notwithstanding the fact that it has been so ruthlessly exposed) continues to be repeated at intervals even to-day. The story goes that, in order to deceive the Stock Exchange, Nathan Meyer

Rothschild followed
Wellington to the field of Waterloo; that
when he saw
which way the battle was going he posted to
London,
depressed the market with hints of disaster
and secretly
bought the depressed stock; and that he
thus contrived
to clear several millions of pounds sterling
when the
official intelligence arrived. An alternative
account tells
how the news was received by pigeon post, of
which the
House was the first to make use.